

FACTS ABOUT

Reducing Air Pollutants from Operation of Mobile Agricultural Equipment in the San Joaquin Valley

Federal law requires California, and all the states, to meet health-based air quality standards and to develop and implement plans to meet those standards. In the San Joaquin Valley, reducing air pollution from mobile agricultural equipment, such as tractors, combines and harvesters, is one of the measures needed to meet federal compliance deadlines for ozone air quality standards.

In response, the California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) is taking a two-stage approach to reducing emissions from mobile agricultural equipment that focuses on early opportunities for reductions using incentive programs, with a later emphasis on accelerated replacement with the cleanest technologies available.

The first stage is the State Implementation Plan Credit from Mobile Agricultural Equipment Regulation that was approved by the Board in October 2013. By providing an administrative mechanism for emission reductions resulting from mobile agricultural equipment incentive program projects to receive State Implementation Plan credit, this regulation capitalizes on reductions being achieved since 2008 by the agricultural industry's voluntary participation in local, State, and federal incentive programs in the San Joaquin Valley.

The second regulatory effort is currently underway and is anticipated to go to the Board in 2016. This effort will seek long-term emission reductions through strategies designed to transform the mobile agricultural fleet to the cleanest available technologies in the San Joaquin Valley in order to meet air pollution standards in 2023 and 2032. This effort will also strive to continue and enhance the voluntary incentive programs that are already achieving significant reductions, and will reflect new thinking, such as a trade-up program to help farmers who may not traditionally qualify for incentives to replace their old equipment with cleaner equipment.

Why ARB is considering a second phase to address emissions from mobile agricultural equipment in the San Joaquin Valley now?

Emissions from mobile agricultural equipment are among a number of significant sources of air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley and reducing these emissions is necessary to meet federal ozone air quality standards. ARB incentive programs and regulations are already reducing emissions from a wide variety of diesel engines in the San Joaquin Valley, including trucks, buses, trash trucks, construction equipment, and fixed commercial generators and pumps. However, to meet federal air quality standards, a continuing transition to the cleanest technologies will be needed over time. A plan to demonstrate how that transition will occur must be developed and submitted to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in 2016.

How is ARB gathering important information about agricultural operations?

ARB is meeting with agricultural organizations, growers, producers, dealers, processors and rental/leasing companies covering a wide variety of agricultural commodities to learn about the diverse agriculture industry and how mobile equipment is used, maintained and replaced.

What types of equipment is ARB staff learning about?

Diesel equipment 25 horsepower or greater that is self-propelled, such as tractors, harvesters, combines, balers, swathers, sprayers, forklifts and all-terrain vehicles. Understanding the operating characteristics of various equipment and advanced emission control technologies, and when these technologies will become available in the mobile agricultural equipment sector in California, is vital to the development of long-term strategies.

What is being considered by ARB?

As with the near-term rule, ARB staff will continue to work with the agricultural industry and other stakeholders to develop a longer-term strategy that continues to maximize the benefits of incentives and increases the use of the cleanest engine technologies that have been proven to work effectively as they become available. ARB will update the emissions inventory for mobile

agricultural equipment; continue to gather information on the deployment of cleaner technologies into the mobile agricultural equipment sector; and present potential strategies for the agricultural industry to address San Joaquin Valley's long-term air quality needs.

What is next for the public process?

All regulations are developed in an open public process that provides many opportunities for public comment. Through this process, ARB staff will provide details on the current amount of pollution from mobile agricultural equipment, including how these estimates were developed, as well as information on draft incentive and regulatory proposals with their emission benefits and costs. ARB staff plans to propose a new rule for Board consideration in 2016.

How do I get involved?

We encourage all stakeholders to get involved. If you would like to receive the workshop notifications and updates, join ARB's e-list at:

www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/listserv_ind.php?listname=inuseag

For more information

Visit: www.arb.ca.gov/ag/agtractor/agtractor.htm or contact Michelle Buffington (916) 324-8748, mbuffing@arb.ca.gov or Sam Gregor (916) 323-0005, sgregor@arb.ca.gov.

The Ombudsman's Office can also be contacted at (916) 327-1266.

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